

To the Members of the California Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 853 (Jones) without my signature.

This bill expands the use of Earnings Withholding Orders for Taxes (EWOTs) by lengthening the time indefinitely that employers would be required to withhold past due tax bills on behalf of the state. Current law requires employers to collect back taxes owed by their employees, but limits the length of time that the Franchise Tax Board may impose this requirement to ten years.

While I am supportive of the author's intent to increase tax collections, this bill does so at the expense of employers who have done nothing improper. The Franchise Tax Board has the authority to continue liens after the ten-year time limit and should continue to use that authority to collect overdue taxes.

For these reasons I cannot support this measure.

Sincerely,

Arnold Schwarzenegger